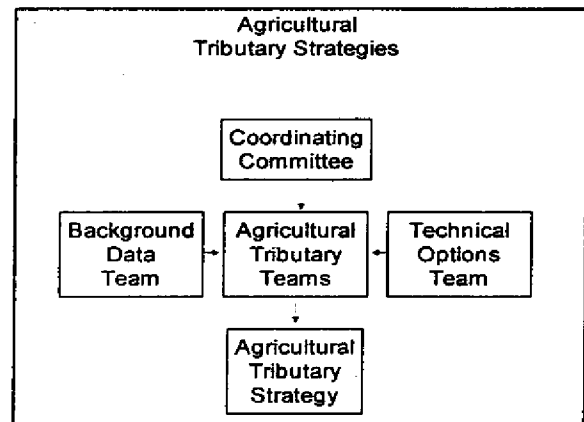


Goals and Strategies as Tools in Nutrient Reduction Programs

- Dated Goals are essential
- Link to water quality improvement
- Goals must be challenging but not impossible
- “Do It Now”; never enough data
- Establish state and subwatershed goals
- Commitment must be at highest level

Maryland’s Approach to Agricultural Tributary Strategies



Ag Trib Teams

Extension NRCS SCD FSA Farmers
Animal Contractors/Processors
Fertilizer Companies
Biosolids Companies
Consultants
Foresters
Local Government
Environmentalists

Estimate Implementation by 2000 with

- Existing resources
- “Reasonable” increase
- Dominantly voluntary program with unlimited resources

Tributary Strategy (all nutrient sources)

- Assume existing resource implementation levels
- Based on cost efficiency include "reasonable increase" estimate until goal achieved
- If goal not achieved with all of "reasonable increase," include "maximum feasible" based on cost efficiency

Agreements with Teams

- Modify background info with justification
- Add practices if efficiencies could be developed
- Did not have to use all practices
- Mix of practices and implementation levels had to be reasonable and defensible
- If strategy met or exceeded their part of goal, we would support it

Results

- All but one met or exceeded target with "reasonable" increases
- Local ag community became proactive leader in tributary strategy process
- Local ownership of strategy
- Strategies were tailored to local ag conditions

Needs Improvement

- Methods for documenting and tracking implementation
- Less optimistic reduction efficiencies
- Overcoming local bias against certain practices
- Created expectation of no change before 2000
- Must deliver on resources
- More emphasis on local as well as downstream practice benefits

State Must

- Accept the strategies
- Not impose practices
- Provide resources
- Leave responsibility (and control) to team
- Review coordinate and implement strategies

Conclusions

- Commitment at highest level
- Dated goals are essential
- Local goals drive strategy development
- Let locals develop strategies
- Develop consistent definitions, reductions and tracking for practices/systems
- Develop local ownership of strategy
- Oversight without control